

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. _____-20

THE MAYOR’S COMMISSION ON FAITH-BASED AND INTERFAITH AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is host to a diverse array of religious institutions and faith-based organizations that provide critically needed support to individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, religious institutions and faith-based organizations invest their spiritual and material assets in the community, generating substantial social and economic capital that enhance the civic life of the City; and

WHEREAS, religious institutions and faith-based organizations encourage community engagement, strengthen communities and impact the lives of people in ways that government and commerce alone cannot; and

WHEREAS, religious institutions are invaluable partners to the City in ensuring that community members are able to reach and access city services, and provide feedback on their effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia and its residents have benefited exponentially from the City’s unrivaled history of innovative civic partnerships with religious institutions, faith-based organizations and nonprofit secular organizations, cooperating to effectively address social disparities, economic challenges, family stability, community safety, neighborhood vitality, public education, healthcare access, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, civic partnerships among city government and religious institutions and faith-inspired and nonprofit secular organizations have increased residents’ access to public services and assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Mayor’s Commission on Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs

- A. The Mayor’s Commission on Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs (“Commission”) is hereby established within the Office of Public Engagement.
- B. To ensure inclusive participation, the Commission shall be composed of up to 30 members, appointed by the Mayor, who are representative of the City’s faith communities.
- C. Each member of the Commission shall serve without compensation at the pleasure of the Mayor.

- D. The Commission shall convene regularly, at such times and places as it may designate. Minutes should be recorded and posted publicly within designated time frame.
- E. The Commission shall select two co-chairs who represent two different faith-based communities, who will serve as co-chairs for a designated period of time that shall not exceed two years.

SECTION 2. Purpose and Responsibilities of the Commission and Duties of City Departments and Agencies

- A. The Commission shall work to facilitate meaningful and durable civic partnerships with local religious institutions, academic institutions, faith-based and nonprofit organizations, and federal and state government agencies.
- B. The Commission shall provide guidance to City officials regarding the development of effective and inclusive strategies and approaches to optimize the City’s engagement and partnering opportunities with religious institutions, faith-based organizations, and nonprofit organizations.
- C. The Commission shall coordinate outreach efforts with City departments, agencies, boards and commissions to advance the quality of life and civic engagement initiatives for City residents.
- D. All City officers, employees, departments, agencies, boards and commissions are hereby directed to cooperate with the Commission in accomplishing its mission and purposes.
- E. The Commission shall endeavor to connect City residents more effectively with constituent services, technical assistance and resource information.
- F. The Commission shall convene and host forums, trainings, listening sessions, and other community-government interactions with leaders of religious institutions, faith-based and secular nonprofit organizations, in furtherance of its mission.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Date: _____

James F. Kenney, Mayor